Therefore, there is no need to import foodgrains at present or in the immediate future.

(b) Does not arise.

Proposal for cancellation of sugar import contracts

5125. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to cancel the pending sugar import contracts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) With a view to ensure adequate availability of sugar, State Trading Corporation Ltd. and Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation Ltd. have entered into forward contracts for import of about 4.05 lakh tonnes of sugar. There is no proposal at present to cancel the aforesaid contracts already entered into.

Plan to check hoarding of sugar

5126. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any multifarious action plan to bring the hoarded stock of sugar in the open market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The primary responsibility for curbing malpractices like hoarding, blackmarketing, etc. lies with the State Governments under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and various regulatory orders issued thereunder.

(b) and (c) The State Governments have been requested to ensure stricts enforcement of the regulatory orders pertaining to sugar/khandsari dealers and also check unlawful trade activities through freuent inspection of their accounts and other records as well as their stocks.

The price of freesale sugar in the open market has remained at reasonable levels during recent months. The wholesale price index of sugar which was 247.1 in June, 1994, came down to 228.0 in October, 1994 and 218.4 in March, 1995.

Setting up of sugar mills in Gujarat

5127. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) what is the annual average production of sugar mills set up in Gujarat as on date;

(b) whether this production is less than the national average;

(c) if so, what is the total production, year-wise during the last three years, as against the national average;

(d) what is the total quantity of sugarcane which is being made available to the aforesaid sugar mills each year as against the national average; and

(e) what steps have been taken by the Government to bring the present production of sugarcane in Gujarat at par with the national average?